

IN THE CLAIMS: Please amend Claims 14, 15, 24, 27 and 28 as shown below. Please cancel Claims 1-13, 16, 20-23 and 33-37. The status of all remaining claims is given for the convenience of the Examiner.

1-13: Canceled as being drawn to non-elected invention.

14. (Currently amended) A method of removing As(III) and As(V) from arsenic-contaminated waters, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the arsenic-contaminated waters with ~~the adsorbent of claim 3~~ a zeolite adsorbent coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide, wherein Mn oxide (III) in said adsorbent oxidizes As(III) to As(V), wherein oxidized and native As(V) is adsorbed by Fe oxide in said adsorbent for subsequent removal; and

(b) removing the oxidized and native As(V) from said waters.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the ~~Mn oxide~~ Mn(III) in said adsorbent comprises Mn(IV) is substituting for Fe(III) in the nanophase coated oxide.

16. Canceled

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the adsorption is performed at the pH range from about 4 to about 9.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the resulting waters comprise less than 3ppb of As(III) and/or As(V).

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said waters are ground waters or surface waters.

20-23: Canceled as being drawn to non-elected invention.

24. (Currently amended) A method of removing arsenic having various valence states from arsenic-contaminated waters without a preoxidation state, comprising the steps of:

- (a) in a single step, using a zeolite adsorbent coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide to oxidize oxidizing the arsenic having lower valence states to arsenic having higher valence states in said arsenic-contaminated waters; and
- (b) removing the oxidized and native arsenic having higher valence states from said waters by said adsorbent.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said arsenic-contaminated waters comprise As(III) and As(V).

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said arsenic having lower valence states is oxidized by a Mn-containing oxide.

27. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26 A method of removing arsenic having various valence states from arsenic contaminated waters, comprising the steps of:

- (a) oxidizing the arsenic having lower valence states to arsenic having higher valence states in said arsenic-contaminated waters; and
- (b) removing the oxidized and native arsenic having higher valence states from said waters;

wherein said arsenic having lower valence states is oxidized by a Mn-containing oxide;

wherein said Mn-containing oxide is selected from the group consisting of birnessite, Si-birnessite, Mn-ferrihydrite and zeolite coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 27, wherein said oxidized and native arsenic having higher valence states is adsorbed and removed by a Mn-containing Fe oxide.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said Mn-containing Fe oxide is selected from the group consisting of birnessite, Si-birnessite, Si-ferrihydrite, Mn-ferrihydrite and natural zeolite coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the adsorption is performed at the pH range from about 4 to about 9.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the resulting waters comprise less than 3 ppb of As(III) and As(V).

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said waters are ground waters or surface waters.

33-37: Canceled as being drawn to non-elected invention.